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*Ruth Murdoch Elementary School*

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### Ruth Murdoch Elementary School celebrates Grandparents Day

Michigan—Deborah Park and her sixth grade class at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School in Berrien Springs celebrate Grandparents Day at the beginning of every school year. Students are encouraged to invite their grandparents, or another adult, to the classroom for a special program that highlights why grandparents are so special.

One national survey of grandparents reported that a variety of activities are engaged in with grandchildren, such as joking and kidding, giving money, talking about growing up, giving advice, discussing problems, going to church/synagogue, providing discipline, taking a day trip, teaching a skill or game, watching TV together and talking about parent/child disagreements. This sounds like a very positive list, and it shows why grandparents should be celebrated.

In her weekly newsletter, *Park's Times*, Park writes: "[Our worship] story reflected on how Joshua and Caleb, the only grandparents who lived in Egypt and made it into the Promised Land, were very valuable to the Isra-



Lissa Caballero and her grandparents, Bruce and Marilyn Babienko, celebrate Grandparents Day.

elites because they could remind the people of the 'giants' they were able to face in the past with the help of God. In the same way, today young people need the interaction with those who have lived the faith and faced the giants and know the power of God. With this interaction, faith is passed down. We challenged our guest grandparents to stay involved in our lives because they do make a difference!"

Everyone enjoyed special music selections performed by the students. Grandparents were served refresh-

ments made by the sixth grade students and finished up the celebration by creating a painting with their grandchildren, following the style of Piet Mondrian.

We love acknowledging the blessing of our grandparents and can't wait to have the opportunity to spend an entire morning devoted to them again next school year.

Wendy Keough, assistant to the principal,  
Ruth Murdoch Elementary School

### HAA starts community garden

Illinois—"I love the garden! It is fun to plant veggies and flowers!" This was the response from Hinsdale Adventist Academy preschooler, Grace Parker, when asked what she thought of the new garden she helped to plant at her school.

Gregory Wallin agreed and stated, "I like that I could plant food at preschool."

His friend, Nicholas Tjardes, chimed in saying, "I have never planted vegetables before. I think they will taste better!"

These were the responses HAA asso-



Alexandra Milinkovic, a mother of a "little lamb" or preschooler, is a resident of Hinsdale, Ill. She donated plants, brought equipment and has been teaching the children how to care for their plot.

ciate principal, Robert Jackson, was hoping for when he planned the new garden. He used to spend his summers helping

tend the garden of his family and neighbors, and was well acquainted with the delight it could bring. In his educational philosophy, Jackson is guided by Ellen White's counsel and believes that effective Adventist education is rooted in hard work, agriculture and hands-on projects. "Students should have knowledge of how to grow and harvest products that are beneficial for them. Our student body is almost entirely from a metropolitan base, which means some kids have never put their hands into dirt. They don't [have] the common knowledge it takes to garden or how much fun it can be."